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REMARKS

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In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11, 13-15, and 17-20 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Sumanweera, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,359,367). Claims 17-20 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumanweera, et al. in view of Baumgartner, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,394).

Claims 1-2, 5-9, and 21-31 were allowed. Claim 16 was objected to as allowable if amended into independent form.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 11, 13-15, and 17-20, including the rejections of independent claims 11, and 17.

Independent claim 11 was amended for clarity. "Edge surface" was believed to indicate a surface other than the top surface, but the Examiner's interpretation in the Advisory Action indicates the top surface and the edge surface as possibly being the same. In order to clarify the differences, claim 11 has been amended. The Examiner is requested to consider the amendment despite the finality in order to advance prosecution while minimizing costs to the applicant since the amendment merely clarifies a limitation already in the claim prior to amendment.

Claim 11 recites pads on the edge surface, the edge surface being a side of the substrate adjacent to and different than the top side of the substrate. Sumanweera, et al. do not show this limitation. Sumanweera, et al. place pads 22 on the top surface or the bottom surface of the substrate (Figures 1 and 4a; and col. 6, lines 53-65). The pads 22 of Sumanweera, et al. are on the top or bottom of the substrate, and are not disclosed as being on an edge surface that is a side of the substrate adjacent to and different than the top side of the substrate. The bottom is not adjacent to the top and is not an edge surface, and the top is not an edge surface different than the top side.

Independent claim 17 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 11. Baumgartner, et al. are cited by the Examiner in an alternative interpretation recognizing that the top surface may include layers above the membrane. Baumgartner, et al., like Sumanweera, et al., provide electrical connection on the top or bottom surfaces of the substrate (see Figure 2; col. 5, lines 30-34; and col. 6, lines 10-16). Both references fail to disclose the same limitation of claim 17 -

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depositing a pad conductor on an edge of the substrate, the edge being a side of the substrate adjacent to and different than the top surface of the substrate.

Dependent claim 13-15, and 18-20 are allowable for the same reasons as the respective independent claims.

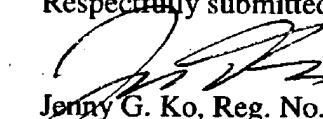
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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Respectfully submitted,


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